

OBE Day two Tuesday 23-5-2017 Garden Party in the grounds of Buckingham Palace



01 DSC_6518

Ali Hood & friend at the exit from the Palace. Ali becomes important later in this series. I was taking random pictures of people at the Garden Party and also the exit from the Palace.

The exit opens onto an elevated terrace from which one gets views over the garden where the activity for the Party takes place. I took some nice photos of the scene from this vantage point.

The Royal entourage exited from here at the appointed time of 4 pm.



05 DSC_6548

The Royal Party emerged and there was a one minute silence for the dead at the Manchester Terrorist Attack two days before. The Queen and the Duke in the centre. Prince Charles in a grey tails suit just getting in on the left.

Immediately after the garden party the Queen went to Manchester to visit some of the injured and the bereaved. According to Claire McMahon when I met her in Sydney a few weeks later, the people greatly appreciated this gesture. Not only that it was made, but by the Queen herself and not by one of the younger Royals.



02 DSC_6529 to 04 DSC_6531

Yeomen of the Guard, the Queen's personal body guards coming out of the Palace to line the 'lane' to the Royal Pavillion.



06 DSC_6555

A member of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms. He was beside the Queen and the Duke a little to their right from the Household Cavalry who take on this role of personal body guards to the Queen on an honorary basis.

Note: I was a long way from the subjects – about 30 metres and I was taking the pictures blind by holding the camera above my head above the crowd of other people doing the same thing.



07 to 10

Prince Philip as he left the Palace came over to speak to a rather small young woman in the guard of honour lining the 'lane' across the Garden lawn. He said "I see you are from Canada and from the Submarine Corps. Yes Sir. You would fit in." Photos taken by David Balden, Sec Manager of the Caledonian Club.





afternoon tea with cakes and sandwiches.

14 DSC_6598

The main Pavilion directly across from the exit from the Palace.

The small tent is for the Army band on the Western end of the clear space.

Then with the peak is the Royal Pavilion and then the VIP Pavilion.

15 to 17

Close up of the band and crowd around the Royal Pavilion.



18

The band on the Eastern end of the clear garden space.

The bands took turn about at playing throughout the afternoon.

19 the VIP Pavilion.

At the end of this Pavilion one could enter the Palace Garden proper. Many of the people who entered by the Main entrance to the Palace from the Mall may not have realised this and may not have actually visited the Garden proper.

By coming in by the Hyde Park gate we walked through the Garden to reach the Palace.



11 DSC_6569 to 19 DSC_6597

Views of the pavilions that lined the edge of the clear garden space in which the activities took place. These photos were taken from the elevated terrace at the exit from the Palace.

Left to right

The very large catering Pavilion with tables and chairs lining the clear garden space.

Close up of a table and a selection of

20

After reaching the Royal Pavilion the Royals made informal walks amongst the crowds of people who were assembled in the hope that they would be able to speak to the Queen etc. These meetings were completely at random.

The whole atmosphere was extremely relaxed and informal.

Everywhere people were taking photos and enjoying themselves.

21

Prince Charles (red arrow)

22

Prince Andrew (red arrow)
After the walkabouts the Royals
returned to the Royal Pavilion to have
afternoon tea with specially invited
VIPs.



23 and 24

While this afternoon tea was taking place, a circle was made in front of the Royal Pavilion. This was lined by chairs for people to sit. Then behind this others could stand.

I was standing in the second row. I found a gap between two heads and was able to take good photos of the Royal Procession as they left the Pavilion and straight across the diameter of the circle to enter a lane lined by Yeomen of the Guard that led to the Palace exit.

The three young ladies standing inside the circle between the first two Yeomen must have been secretaries because they were fussing about with some of the old people in the chairs. When the Duke and Prince Charles passed them on the way out they went over specially to speak to them.

(I wonder whether they might have been Royal Nieces)



25 to 44



The Royal Procession walked leisurely across the circle and then made their way towards the Palace.

The young lady in whose ear my camera shutter lens had been making a great racket turned around and said “How did you like your living tripod.” I apologised profusely. In my excitement I did not notice that I had not only been making noises in her ear but I must have been leaning on her shoulder.

Taken on 23-5-2017 at Buckingham Palace



I took a nice photo of she and her companion. She was Ali Hood who I had accidentally included in the first photo of this series. What are the statistical odds for doing this in a crowd of 8,000 people?



46 to 52

Photos of the Queen and the Royals speaking to disabled people in wheel chairs just before they ascended the steps to return to the Palace.
(Photos taken by Martin Letheren Anaesthetist.)

Robin Cooke